

invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim, and the elements must be arranged as required by the claim.

Claim 1 is directed to a telephone wire distribution center comprising: a front substantially planar surface; at least one pair of punch down terminal strips attached to the front surface, wherein each punch down terminal strip includes a first termination area and a plurality of additional termination areas, wherein each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same punch down terminal strip; and a region of the front surface for labeling at least one wire pair.

Applicants respectfully submit that Daoud does not describe a telephone wire distribution center wherein each punch down terminal strip includes a first termination area and a plurality of additional termination areas and wherein each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same punch down terminal strip.

Daoud is directed to a switching mechanism for selectively routing wiring connections on a connector block. Each row of terminal strips on the connector block of Daoud has two sets of terminal strips, one set for each tip and ring wire pair from a telephone company central office. Each row of terminal strips is dedicated to a separate tip ring wire pair. (Column 3, line 67 through column 4, line 12). Each terminal strip disclosed by Daoud has a wire wrap terminal at one end and an output connector at the opposite end. (Column 4, lines 37-58). Daoud does not therefore describe a terminal strip including a first termination area and a plurality of additional termination areas

wherein the terminal strip electrically couples in series each termination area of the terminal strip, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Daoud does not anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in suitable condition for allowance.

Claims 9-10 properly depend upon, incorporate the limitations of, and further limit claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-10 also contain patentable subject matter and are in suitable condition for allowance.

Claim 11 is directed to a method of organizing telephone wires comprising the steps of: connecting a single paired input wire to a pair of electrically conductive terminal strips; connecting a plurality of paired output wires to the pair of electrically conductive terminal strips; and labeling the destination of the paired output wires on the distribution center.

Applicants respectfully submit that Daoud does not describe a method of organizing telephone wires comprising the step of connecting a plurality of paired output wires to the pair of electrically conductive terminal strips (to which a single pair of input wires has already been connected). Instead, Daoud discloses a method of connecting terminal strips together for connecting a single pair of input wires to a single pair of output wires. In accordance with Daoud, multiple connections of this type may be made. Daoud does not, however, disclose connecting a plurality of output wire pairs to the same pair of terminal strips to which a single pair of input wires has already been connected.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Daoud does not anticipate claim 11 and claim 14, which recites the functionality of claim 11 in "means for" format. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 14 are in suitable condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2-8, 12-13, and 15-16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Daoud in view of Treptow (U.S. Patent 2,098,321).

M.P.E.P. §2143.03 requires that, in order to establish prima facie obviousness, "all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons set forth above, Daoud and Trepto, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations of claims 2-8, 12-13, and 15-16, and, therefore, fail to establish prima facie obviousness of these claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8, 12-13, and 15-16 contain patentable subject matter and are in suitable condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Communication

If the Applicants may expedite consideration of the instant application in any way, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Date: May 30, 2002

By:

 43,805

William J. Klein

Reg. No. 43,719

Phone: 312/715-1000

Facsimile: 312/715-1234

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 11, and 14 as follows.

1. (Amended) A telephone wire distribution center comprising:

a front substantially planar surface;

^{134-1, 134-2}
at least one pair of punch down terminal strips attached to the front surface, wherein each
¹¹⁸⁻¹ ~~punch down terminal strip~~ ^{118-2 → 118-13} includes a first termination area and a plurality of additional termination
areas, wherein each termination area of a particular punch down terminal strip is electrically coupled
in series by the particular punch down terminal strip to every other termination area of the same
punch down terminal strip; and

a region of the front surface for labeling at least one wire pair.

11. (Amended) A method of organizing telephone wires comprising the steps of:

connecting a single paired input wire to a pair of electrically conductive terminal strips;

connecting a plurality of paired output wires to the pair of electrically conductive terminal
strips; and

labeling the destination of the paired output wires on the distribution center.

14. (Amended) A telephone wire distribution center comprising:

means for connecting a single paired input wire to a pair of electrically conductive terminal
strips;

means for connecting a plurality of paired output wires to the pair of electrically conductive terminal strips; and

means for labeling the destination of the paired output wires on the distribution center.